

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

**LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS K. CROWE, P.C.**

2300 M STREET, N.W.  
SUITE 800  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20037  
(202) 973-2890  
FAX (202) 973-2891  
FAX (202) 293-3083

April 18, 1996

RECEIVED  
APR 18 1996  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

**BY MESSENGER**

Mr. William F. Caton  
Acting Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Room 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Ex Parte Notice; CC Docket 96-45

Dear Mr. Caton:

This letter is to confirm that on Thursday, April 18, 1996, Thomas K. Crowe, counsel for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI"), and Dave Ecret, Special Assistant for Telecommunications and Utilities, Office of the CNMI Governor, met with Paul Pederson and other members of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. During this meeting Mr. Crowe and Mr. Ecret summarized the CNMI's comments in the above-mentioned proceeding and distributed the following enclosed materials: 1) the April 16, 1996 joint press release titled "Green Light Given to Area Codes for Guam and the CNMI"; 2) the U.S. Department of the Interior's April 16, 1996 press release titled "Guam and CNMI to Get Area Codes."

This ex parte notice is being filed in the Office of the Secretary on April 18, 1996 and should be included in the public record.

Respectfully submitted,

*Thomas K. Crowe* <sup>MSA</sup>

Thomas K. Crowe,  
Counsel for the Commonwealth of  
the Northern Mariana Islands

Enclosures

cc: Dave Ecret

No. of Copies rec'd  
List ABCDE

044

**RECEIVED**

**APR 18 1996**

April 16, 1996

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.--"GREEN LIGHT GIVEN TO AREA CODES FOR GUAM AND  
THE CNMI"**

The North American Numbering Plan Administrator ("NANPA") agreed to withdraw its study of whether to issue area codes for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("Commonwealth") and the Territory of Guam ("Guam"), and to proceed with issuance of the codes. The action clears the way for the Commonwealth and Guam to join the North American Numbering Plan ("NANP"), with Guam to receive area code 671 and the Commonwealth to receive 670.

The NANPA's action was precipitated by the withdrawal of Canadian concerns over entry of Guam and the Commonwealth into the NANP. After a meeting several weeks ago with a representative from Canadian carrier Teleglobe, the Governor's offices of both the Commonwealth and Guam were able to resolve differences with Teleglobe. As a result, Teleglobe forwarded a letter to the NANPA on April 9, 1996 withdrawing in full its opposition to Commonwealth/Guam entry to the NANP.

The NANPA's action today essentially concludes a process which was commenced by the Governor's Offices of the Commonwealth and Guam over one year ago. The Guam and Commonwealth Governor's Offices separately submitted requests to the NANPA for NANP entry and issuance of area codes in March 1995. The requests received important support from the U.S. Department of Interior, the Federal Communications Commission and the U.S.

Department of State. The efforts of both Governor's Offices have also been supported by Congressman Robert A. Underwood and the Commonwealth's Resident Representative, Juan N. Babauta.

"The inclusion of Guam and the CNMI in the North American Numbering Plan is the result of hard work and cooperation. We are very grateful for the support of the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Department of Interior, and the Federal Communications Commission," said Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez.

The NANPA's action anticipates a withdrawal by the Canadian Steering Committee on Numbering ("CSCN") of an objection which it had lodged with the NANPA last summer. Last week, Teleglobe forwarded a letter to CSCN indicating that it had reached a resolution with Guam and the Commonwealth and that it had withdrawn its opposition. The Commonwealth and Guam expect the CSCN to similarly withdraw its objections before the INC, perhaps as early as next week.

Entry into the NANP and assignment of area codes (known in the industry as Numbering Plan Area or NPA codes) means that it will no longer be necessary to use the international dialing protocol (i.e., "011") to call Guam or the Commonwealth from the mainland U.S. Instead, calls between the Commonwealth/Guam and the contiguous U.S., Canada and Caribbean nations will be placed using the same abbreviated "1+" dialing mechanism which has been implemented throughout the NANP.

According to Governor Froilan C. Tenorio of the Commonwealth, "NANP entry is important for two reasons. First, it helps ensure that the Commonwealth will have access to the enormous benefits of the Information age. And second, it will facilitate closer commercial ties

between the Commonwealth and mainland U.S., benefitting Commonwealth businesses and consumers alike."

The Commonwealth's Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta commented, "I have been optimistic that the passage of the telecommunications bill would signal the end of Canadian opposition. I commend all parties involved in bringing about this positive resolution."

NANP entry will occur pursuant to an implementation plan which is presently set to commence on July 1, 1997. Implementation will begin with a "permissive dialing period" pursuant to which callers placing calls between Guam or the Commonwealth and the NANP points (i.e., the mainland U.S.) can use either the new "1+" dialing arrangement or the existing international dialing protocol. Permissive dialing, commonly used in the telecommunications industry when cutting over new codes, will continue for at least one year in order to allow adequate time for callers to become familiar with the new arrangement. Once the permissive dialing period has ended, all calls to NANP points must be placed by first dialing "1+".

The NANPA has reserved as area codes the same country codes currently utilized by Guam and the Commonwealth. At the end of the permissive dialing phase, the 670/671 country codes will no longer function as country codes, but will operate only as area codes.

With the NANPA's action today, virtually every U.S. insular point will now be part of the NANP. Hawaii, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have all previously been brought within the NANP.

For further information, please contact:

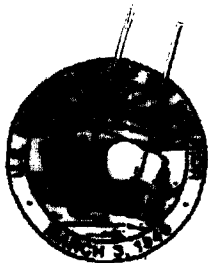
Thomas K. Crowe, Esq.  
Law Offices of Thomas K. Crowe, P.C.  
2300 M Street, N.W.  
Suite 800  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
(202) 973-2890

Dave Ecret  
Special Assistant for  
Telecommunications and Utilities  
Office of the Governor  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
Islands  
(202) 973-2890

Bob Kelley  
Governor's Advisor on  
Telecommunications Issues  
Office of the Governor  
Executive Chambers, Adelup  
P.O. Box 2950  
Agana, Guam 96910  
(671) 475-9432

Frank C. Torres  
Washington Liaison Office  
Territory of Guam  
444 North Capitol Street, N.W.  
Suite 532  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 624-3670

Adam Turner  
Office of the Resident Representative  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
Islands  
2121 R Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008  
(202) 673-5869



# NEWS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**Office of Insular Affairs**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**April 16, 1996**

**Contact: Steve Sander**  
**(202) 208-4754**

## **Guam and CNMI to Get Area Codes**

Guam area code 671 and Northern Marianas area code 670 are slated for implementation beginning July 1, 1997 due to action taken today by the North American Numbering Plan (NANP) Administrator in Washington, D.C. The prefix "1" will replace the currently used international prefix "011".

"Working as a team, the Office of Insular Affairs, Guam, and the CNMI prevailed first with Federal agencies like the Federal Communications Commission and the State Department," said OIA Director Allen Stayman, "and then overcame the objections from Canada."

Last week, Telelobe Canada, Inc. withdrew its objection to Guam and CNMI participation in the NANP, clearing the way for use of the area codes.

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt recently endorsed the Guam and CNMI inclusion in the NANP. Babbitt arguments included legal and policy reasons, and the recent enactment of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which requires that island consumers receive telecommunications and information services comparable to U.S. urban areas.

"Similar area code service for the islands and mainland U.S. helps avoid confusion and is an up-front signal to the world that Guam and the CNMI are American," Stayman said. "The Office of Insular Affairs is glad it could play a role in educating the various parties on the merits of the area code proposal."

-DOI-